

A1
B1
CND
(b) tuning a natural frequency of the turbine bucket without modifying physical features of the turbine bucket, wherein step (b) is practiced by, prior to step (a), placing a crystal seed along a desired direction according to an orientation between 0°-90° relative to an engine axial direction to thereby effect a desired percentage change in the natural frequency of the turbine bucket.

6. (Amended) A method of tuning turbine bucket natural frequency comprising:

A2
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b2
(a) placing a crystal seed along a desired orientation between 0°-90° relative to an engine axial direction; and

(b) investment casting the turbine bucket with a single crystal alloy, wherein the desired orientation is selected to tune torsional frequencies without affecting flexure frequencies and to effect a desired percentage change in the turbine bucket natural frequency.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and claim 5 has been canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally-